DIOCESAN COMMITTEE May 1938

WHITE MISSIONS OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mrs. I. Manning Hewson, Chairman of Committee

I. CONVOCATION OF CHESTER

Saint Faith's, Brookline: Rev. William Powell, Vicar, has a fine stone church building, surrounded by a large lawn, and is situated in a growing community. January 1932 saw the first service, which was held in the Brookline Public School Auditorium. At first the Vicar taught on the Church Farm School staff, and serviced the mission without salary. The first service in the present church was held the second Sunday in February, 1933. Since then the building has been enlarged several times. The basement is now being painted to use as an additional room for the Church School. All current expenses are paid and a liberal contribution made to the Diocese. A debt of $5000.00 is owed on the church, and $5000.00 on the rectory. There are 75 families enrolled, with 150 children in the Church School. Parish activities embrace: Woman's Auxiliary, Senior and Junior Altar Guilds, Men's Club, Y.P.F., Knights of St. John - all in flourishing condition.

Redeemer, Springfield: Rev. George Bishop, Vicar. Started in 1924, services were first held in homes, but the growing community built the church in which services began in July, 1929. This stone building has 16 pews and an adjoining room with double doors, which when opened gives additional space. Costing $50,000.00, there is still a $9,000;00 debt upon the building. There are seventy-five Communicants. Average attendance on Sunday, fifty. Some seventy-five are enrolled in the Church School. Most of the village people are Lutherans, who allow their children to attend the Church School, but will not permit their confirmation.

Holy Sacrament, Highland Park: The Rev. W. Hugh Freyer, Vicar. This wide-awake mission occupies a beautiful church building on the main thoroughfare, with plenty of ground for future development. The mission is self-supporting with a debt of $27,000.00, $2,000.00 of which was paid last year. Located in a built-up neighborhood, there is an average attendance of 150, with 200 enrolled in the Church School. A "Ladies' Guild" takes the place of the Woman's Auxiliary, with many members non-Churchwomen. During Lent the Vicar has a mission study class for young people.

Saint James', Prospect Park: The Vicar, Rev. P. R. R. Reinhardt, has suffered from illness, which handicaps his work, as he can do no visiting. His parishioners and the Vicar at Eddystone help where possible.

A group of twelve young married woemn, calling themselves The Rectory Guild, help raise money for parish expenses. In the last eight years they have paid off a $5,000.00 mortgage and increased the missionary apportionment. The Woman's Auxiliary was visited by two ladies from Saint Asaph's, Bala, who found a fine, wide-awake group of workers.

All Saints', Darby: Rev. George B. Krantz, Jr., Vicar, has a complete and well equipped plant, with plenty of room for expansion. The buildings have recently been painted and are in fine condition. Surrounded by small houses, the parish is comparatively poor, and most of the Church equipment has been given by friends. There is an average attendance of 120 at Sunday services and 190 are enrolled in the Church School. There were twenty in this year's Confirmation Class. The Woman's Auxiliary is very active.

Trinity, Collingdale: Rev. H. E. Kaufmann, has been a self-supporting mission since 1932. The lovely church is of stone construction, built some twelve years ago. There is Morning and Evening Prayer with the Eucharist on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. About 500 communicants are enrolled. The Church School has an average attendance of 270. This year marks the 50th Anniversary, with a big celebration planned. A "Ladies' Guild" instead of the Woman's Auxiliary, the G.F.S., Boys' Club, Boys' Scout troop, Altar Guild, and Junior and Senior Choirs constitute parish activities.

Saint John's, Essington: Rev. F. A. Warden, Christ Church, Ridley Park, Vicar. A reading room and Church School was started some thirty-five years ago in Essington by Mr. and Mrs. Stokes, of Saint Clement's, Philadelphia. Taken over by Bishop Garland in 1923, this became Saint John's Mission.

The Rev. C. E. Eder was then in charge. The lovely church building was erected six years ago. Parish activities consist of: a Church School; Saint Mary's Guild; the women's organization; Saint Andrew's, the men's; an Altar Guild, Servers' Guild, and Boy Scout troop, with other activities. A debt of $6,000. is on the church.

The Swedes landed here before William Penn came to Pennsylvania. It was then called Tinicum.

Saint Luke's, Eddystone: Rev. Fredrick B. Hornby, St. Luke's, Chester, in charge since September 1935. A faithful group is here, doing fine work. There is now a Woman's Auxiliary of seven members meeting once a month. In Lent there is a weekly study class. Boy's Scout troop, a mixed choir, Altar Guild and Church School with ninety members are active. Also a Girls' Club, which later may become a Junior Woman's Auxiliary. St. Luke's Guild has earned $432.41 in 1937.

Ascension, Parkesburg: Rev. H. S. Paynter, Rector of Trinity, Coatesville, in charge. This was a one-industry town. The industry suspended operation and the plant dismantled. The mission was established by the industry executives because it was felt to be of an economic advantage to be identified with the Church. Since the plant closed, most of those attending found other employment and moved away. The newcomers do not begin to balance the exodus of the old. There are sixty communicants in some twenty families. Services on Sunday consist of Holy Communion the first Sunday at nine o'clock, Evening Prayer other Sundays. The Mission pays their Vicar and gives over $100 to the Diocese. Diocesan assistance ceased four years ago, and the mission is now self-supporting.

There is a small Woman's Auxiliary, a boy choir, a Church School with sixty pupils,. The children come from families with no other Church connection. The organ badly needs repair.

II. CONVOCATION OF GERMANTOWN

Extending as it does, from Roxborough on the West, to Holmesburg and Tacony on the East, and Solebury, Bucks County, on the North, the Convocation of Germantown covers a wide area embracing parishes and missions nowhere near Germantown. There are here twelve missions, not including the Polish and Colored missions, and also excluding Saint Wilfrid's, Dolington, which is temporarily closed.

The localities are as widely diversified in aspect and people as the area, for they run the scale from the old mill districts of Rhawnhurst and Feltonville to the suburb of West Oak Lane, and the prosperous farming community of Sloebury in Bucks County, near the Delaware River.

Saint Gabriel's, Feltonville: Rev. William T. Metz, Vicar, on the Roosevelt Boulevard, was begun in 1915, the present church being built in 1928. The services are dignified with a vested choir. There are 293 communicants, many being hosiery workers. The Church School has 132 pupils. There is no Woman's Auxiliary, but Saint Mary's Guild raises most of the necessary money.

Church of the Ascension, Rhawnhurst: Rev. George L. Gibbs, Vicar, is situated east of the Roosevelt Boulevard. The Church building was planned so that a second floor might be added. The present first floor is used as a chapel and Church School room, as well as other parish activities, a folding screen shutting off the chancel. The parishioners are mostly textile workers, but since the mills closed, office workers predominate. Forty-five is an average Sunday attendance. The bills are paid and there is no debt. The mission badly needs new floors, cost $450.00.

Saint John's, West Oak Lane: When visited, was closed. The Y.P.F. leader giving the needed information. Sunday morning service attendance, eighty-five; Church School, one hundred. There is a Woman's Auxiliary, also Men's Club, G.F.S. and Boy Scout tro p. Rev. C. S. Goodman, the former Vicar, died recently.

SAINT ANDREW'S-in-the-Fields, Somerton: Rev. John W. Norris, rector of Saint Luke's, Bustleton, volunteers his services. Literally in the fields, this mission is well named; it therefore serves a small congregation. The Vicar hopes to move the lovely old building into the town of Somerton, where it will be more accessible to a larger group, especially in the winter. One Eucharist a month is celebrated, and Evening Prayer said every Sunday evening.

The Bucks County Missions: in charge of Rev. Waldo D. Parker, who is stationed at Langhorne.

Saint James', Langhorne: Rev. Waldo D. Parker, Vicar, a town of 1200 population; attendance at services average 45. The young people are active, and very anxious for a parish house.

Saint Paul's, Edgley, lies west of the Pennsylvania R.R., the only church in that section of the town. A somewhat discouraging field, but the new young vicar, Rev. A. F. Fischer, Jr., believes that with patience and hard work steady growth will result. There are 53 communicants.

The Incarnation, Morrisville: Rev. Oliver E. Newton, Vicar. When visited more than half the congregation were under sixteen years of age. A good sign for the future. In his four years' incumbence, the Vicar states, finances have improved, although attendance has not. Both the Vicarage mortgage and note on the bank have been reduced, through the Diocesan offer to give dollar for dollar raised. There is a Church School, but no other organization.

The three most picturesque missions:

All Saints', Fallsington: Rev. F. H. Smith, Vicar. A freshly painted, well cared-for building, set among lovely trees. This mission was built and endowed by a Miss Williams, nearly seventy years ago. Communicants have decreased, and the Women's Guild has to come to the financial rescue. The small and scattered congregation comes from nearby communities.

Holy Nativity, Wrightstown: Rev. Waldo M. Parker, Vicar. A tiny sheep barn on the farm of the late Bishop Booth. The farm was sold, but the Bishop retained the chapel so long as services are held in it. Holy Communion is said the first Sunday to comply with the terms of Bishop Booth's will. St.James, Newtown, is near, and services are really unnecessary. It is the unique sentiment surrounding the little chapel which makes the Vicar loath to give it up.

Saint Philip's, New Hope: Under charge of Dean Eder of Convocation, is situated in the midst of the Artist Colony on the river road north of New Hope. Originally a one room school house, that simple architecture has been retained. Inside the walls are a clear grey, the altar is simple, while beautiful wrought iron candle stands from the nearby Colt studios stand on either side. Sixty-five attended service when visited, many being girls from the Holmquist School. There is talk of the school taking over Saint Philip's for their own chapel.

Trinity Chapel, Solebury: lies some three miles above the river in a fertile farm section. A small plain stone church building is annexed to a most complete and attractive parish house costing $50,000. The mission is some seventy years old, but has never grown, as it is in the midst of a strong Quaker settlement. Communicants number forty-five, but many never attend service. There is no Woman's Auxiliary, but a guild. They do not want an Auxiliary, as that would mean raising money, and they can now hardly keep afloat. Two valiant teachers have maintained the Church School, but without the number of Confirmations that should result.

The fine Parish House provides a meeting place for the Farmers' Club, the Dramatic organization and Church suppers, but is probably more used by Quakers than Church people.

SUMMARY: The survey of Convocation Missions would seem to indicate that in these days of motors and good roads there is need for fewer missions, consolidated, and an effort made to improve the property, with higher salaries, and a general welding together of a strong group of loyal Church people.

III. CONVOCATION OF NORRISTOWN

Church of the Advent, Hatboro: Rev. L. J. Sachs, Vicar. Nine years ago an attractive parish house was built adjoining the forty-year-old church, a connecting cloister between. The parish house is one large room, used for Church School and all parish meetings. It has a fully equipped kitchen, including a gas-heated hot table. The women of the Auxiliary were found preparing tables for a dinner given them by the parish men. The rectory is some three blocks away from the church, and is one of the oldest buildings in Hatboro. The congregation is from the clerical class and are mostly commuters to Philadelphia.

Emmanuel, Quakertown: Captain Atkinson, Church Army, in charge since November. The present congregation averages 45. There is a guild or "sewing party." It is hoped a Woman's Auxiliary may soon be started. The work is somewhat handicapped by the great distances the people live from the mission. Not all have cars, but all are transported when possible. The correspondence course of Church School lessons from the League for the Isolated is sent to many of the far-off farm children.

Epiphany, Royersford: Rev. W. H. Anthony, St. Peter's, Phoenixville, now holds services at nine o'clock Sundays. A full-time vicar will be in charge July 1st, 1938. Here is a much needed field of work which can only be developed by a resident priest. There is a women's guild, but no Woman's Auxiliary. Laymen hold the 10:45 service on Sunday.

Holy Trinity, Lansdale: Rev. J. A. Cragg, Vicar, is one of fourteen churches in a community of 10,000. A beautiful building is kept in excellent condition. Services, weekly 7:30 Eucharist, Church School and Morning Prayer with Y.P.F. meetings on Sunday. When visited, there was an admission service for G.F.S. candidates. The Church people do all needed work. The Vicar and some of his men have just repaired their heater.

Trinity, Gulph Mills: Rev. Caleb Cresson, Vicar. Dean Burk of the Convocation of Norristown found a number of families of Welsh, English, Scotch and Swedish descent living in the section called Rebel Hill, who asked for his leadership to establish the Church. From 1912-14, meetings were held at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Percy R. Varien, when the corner-stone of Trinity was laid on ground given by the Varien family. The mission was put in charge of Mr. George Randall, a layman. The present Vicar has been in charge seven years. Support comes from the Bishop and Dean of Convocation. The Vicar lives ten miles away, at Oaks. Sunday services at 8:15, and the Church School. An average of ten are confirmed yearly.

The people constantly help improve the fabric, adding several rooms and a heating plant. A memorial tower and bell have been given by the Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr. Personal aid and leadership is needed, also representatives from the mission attending the Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary committees. There is an average of 55 at Sunday services. The mission needs a rectory, for which there is ample grounds.

St. Ann's, Willow Grove: Rev. Robert P. Frazier, Vicar, built a fine new stone chapel and parish house in 1934. Church services are held on the main floor. The basement is a finely equipped room for all parish activities, - Church School, Woman's Auxiliary, men's meetings, and suppers.

The old chapel building stood idle except for Kindergarten and Primary Church School. A neighborhood community house was badly needed, but St. Ann's could not afford to pay salaries or maintenance. Two leaders from the W.P.A. Recreational Division were sent to operate the Center, Huntington Valley Chapel financing the venture for one year. A committee from St. Ann's with the Vicar Chairman forms the directing body. This venture has proved a great success. Over 100 children came the first day, and have since averaged 60. The building is open from Monday to Friday, from 3 to 10. Handwork of all kinds is taught. The basket ball team meets in the parish house of St. Peter's, Weldon. A male glee club and a dancing class also function. There is a fine library of 300 volumes in constant use. Books are badly needed.

The effect of this venture is already evident in the young people's attitudes. They had nothing to do but to go to the movies and get into mischief. Energies now find a real outlet in the Community House activities.

IV. CONVOCATION OF WEST PHILADELPHIA

St. Titus', Elmwood: Rev. Mark M. Garcia, Vicar, is a two story building of wood, in fair condition. The second floor is the church, which has a churchly appearance, with many lovely memorials. There are 170 communicants. The Woman's Auxiliary is under the direction of Deaconess Adams. A Woman's Guild also works for the parish. A Men's Club and Y.P.F. are active. The needs are many, but most urgent is adequate plumbing.

V. CONVOCATION OF SOUTH PHILADELPHIA

Transfiguration: Rev. Gustav Meckling, Vicar. Here are 110 communicants, with 125 in the Church School. This is probably the poorest white mission in the Diocese, although their condition is improving. $800 was raised last year, against $200 the year before. The greatest need is a heating plant. Painting is also badly needed.

St. Elisabeth's: Rev. F. B. Roseboro; has had a dramatic and sometimes tragic history. Founded the latter part of the last century to minister to the needs of a developing city district, it has shared in the changes that have come to the neighborhood. In 1927 it was no longer able to maintain its status as an independent parish, and the property passed into the hands of the Diocese. Amalgamated with the parish is L'Emmanuello Mission for Italians, and Father Roseboro has charge of both.

Miss Eleanor Deane, the Diocesan worker for Italians, gives part of her time to St. Elisabeth's. For other helpers they depend upon volunteers and their own young people, who are growing into maturity and leadership. The entire church and parish

house have recently been decorated and painted by men of the parish, and the lovely church is again beautiful in its cream and gold paint, with the red dome over the beautiful High Altar.

VI. CONVOCATION OF NORTH PHILADELPHIA

All Souls', 3236 N. 16th Street, Rev. H. J. Pulver, Vicar. The only church in the Diocese for the deaf. There are 251 Communicants, average attendance at the chief Sunday service, 62. The scattered members cannot all attend every week. In 1937 the Diocese gave $2268.00, the congregation raising over $1500. The silent choir leads the hymns in sign language, and is available for outside meetings, especially in the evening. There are few young people, as they attend institutions where training in sign language and vocations are available.

St. Ambrose, Howard & Ontario Streets, Rev. Robert C. Hubbs, Vicar. Situated in the mill district, there are 496 Communicants from 247 families. The Church School enrolls nearly 300. The Diocese gave $1425 in 1937, which will be reduced $150 in 1938. The mortgage now amounts to $4660, a reduction in six years from $10,000. There is hope of the mission becoming a self-supporting parish when paid off. The most urgent need - Help with this mortgage. The Diocese cannot continue the 50-50 plan in 1938.

St. Barnabas', 3rd & Dauphin Streets, Rev. Albert W. Eastburn, Vicar. There are 216 communicants and average attendance of 122. 236 are enrolled in the Church School. Diocesan assistance in 1937 was $1300, with $1530 raised by themselves. Much assistance has been given by various parishes, including a Daily Vacation Bible School. The Parish Visitor, Miss Zellan, is supported by a friend of the mission.

St. Bartholomew's, 25th & Lehigh. Rev. A. W. Eastburn in temporary charge, the former Vicar having died. Services are held alternate Sundays with St. Barnabas', a lay reader member of the mission taking other services. There are 175 communicants, with 155 in the Church School. Convocation gave $800 in 1937 and $3900 was raised by the mission. Much of this came from the rent of property owned by them. It is hoped they may become a self-supporting parish with a full-time priest once more. To do this, the rectory must be made fit to live in.

St. George's, Richmond, Indiana Ave. & Livingston Sts. Rev. A. J. Arkin, who was founder and builder of the work, Vicar. Changes in population have caused a dwindling of support, and termites were recently found in the floors and pews. There is a heavy mortgage which the mission cannot reduce. The Diocese has been forced to make a substantial payment toward reduction, $500.00 being required in 1938.

There are 275 communicants, 116 being enrolled in the Church School. $1540.00 was allowed them by the Diocese in 1937. Major A. J. Drexel Biddle founded a Boys' Brigade in the parish some years ago, and is much interested. Money is badly needed to fight the termites.

St. George's, Venango: in charge of a lay reader, Mr. E. E. Proffitt, since the Vicar was called to Hatboro. There are 291 communicants, 164 in the Church School. Diocesan allowance in 1937, $800, the mission raising $1023.00. Just now they are struggling to build a fence around the property, $600 being required. The plant is adequate and well adapted to the mission needs. An altar from the Bishop's house has been loaned, replacing the rather forlorn one formerly in use.

The Hebrew-Christian Synagogue, 517 York Ave. Rev. C. H. Reese, Chaplain. Miss Mary Ormsby, lay worker. Communion services are conducted by the Rev. J. L. Saunders. There are eight communicants and fifty in the Church School. The Diocesan allowance is $1500. A devoted outside committee greatly aids in carrying on this work.

Chapel of the Redeemer, Seamen's Church Institute, 211 Walnut Street. Rev. Percy R. Stockman, Chaplain. Not a mission in the ordinary sense, but the Institution chapel. Diocesan support of the Chaplain in 1937 was $3000, reduced in 1938 to the canonical amount allowed a missionary, $2100 plus a rectory. The chapel bears the name of the original floating chapel dedicated to seamen's work by Bishop Alonzo Potter in 1849. Regular Prayer Book services are required, but other religious bodies use the chapel. Average attendance, 55.

The Episcopal Hospital and Galilee Mission chapels are also within the Convocation, but come under the Institutions.

PARISH MISSIONS WITHIN THE DIOCESE

Chapel of the Nativity, Germantown
Saint Alban's, Newtown Square
Saint Andrew's Chapel, West Manayunk
Saint Joseph's, Gladwyn
Saint Michael's, Yeadon
Saint Luke's, Germantown
Old Saint David's, Radnor
Saint Asaph's, Bala
All Saints', Wynnewood
Christ Church, Ridley Park

SUMMARY

After compiling this report, the committee came to the following conclusions:

I. Every mission should have a Woman's Auxiliary, composed of their Churchwomen, which should be under the care and help of the Diocesan Woman's Auxiliary.

II. Our missions should be in the care of the best of our priests. They are worthy of all the Church can give.

III. It would seem that a number of missions here reported should have the status of parishes with self-support, thus relieving the Diocese of the expense of caring for them.

Equipment Needed:

Help with mortgages. Proper equipment of the church buildings, also parish houses. St. Andrew's-in-the-Field, Edgley, holds all meetings in a garage; a parish house badly needed. St. Alban's, Newtown Square, needs a small organ. St. James', Langhorne, a room where the young people can meet, etc.

S O S !

The Chaplain at Mount Alto State T. B. Sanatarium was helped by this Committee in his work for more than 1000 patients by gifts to his "Discretionary Fund." This does great good to the Church's influence among them. Will YOUR parish send gifts to meet Chaplain Robert T. McCutcheon's pressing need?

Faithfully yours,

ELSIE DOUGLAS.